



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: December 9, 2004

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IX: Consideration of resolution authorizing a sole source contract with University of California, Davis to provide GIS services for the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation contract.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board authorize a sole source contract with University of California, Davis to provide GIS services for the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation contract.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority has a contract for fiscal year 2004-2005 with the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation (RLFF) for a total amount of \$150,000. There is currently \$124,000 remaining in the contract. The purpose of the contract is to provide services in order implement the Great Places project commenced several years ago by the Resources Agency. These services include GIS services and staff services. RLFF provided \$75,000 at the beginning of the contract and will provide the second \$75,000 in January 2005. The contract expires on June 30, 2005. The contract supported two contract employees in Sacramento who provided services and developed geographic information system (GIS) tools for the Great Places Program (GPP). Because the GPP is currently funded through interagency agreements, contracts and grants, and not through a state budget line item, it has been difficult to keep contract employees on staff or find replacements. The two MRCA contract employees terminated their contracts to go to work for the State. It is anticipated that the GPP will continue to be funded in this manner for the foreseeable future.

Staff has determined that the most expeditious manner in which to carry out the terms of the contract is to enter into a sole source contract with the University of California Davis (UCD) to provide the necessary GIS services. UCD has been involved in many projects with the Resources Agency and projects associated with the Great Places Program.

University of California at Davis Information Center for the Environment (UCD ICE) to help complete the existing MRCA grant for the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation (RLFF). ICE is an environmental information brokerage and research laboratory in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy at UCD. ICE

specializes in the development and dissemination of geospatial data and technologies; the development of robust data architectures dedicated to the cataloging of global environmental information; and the creation of decision support systems geared toward improving the capabilities of resource managers in a variety of sectors. ICE currently employs approximately 30 professional staff and students and is under the direction of Professor Jim Quinn and Academic Administrator Mike McCoy.

UCD ICE employees will perform services and develop all GIS data and analytical tools for the program over the next two years. This organizational structure is similar to the Resources Agency's CERES Program and UCD, in which UCD employees perform services for CERES Program. This allows CERES to expand (or contract), as funds are available and also protects the program from major state personnel cuts because services are provided by contract. GPP will benefit from the same management structure and be able to grow its employee force as more funds become available.

UCD ICE has a reputation of successfully developing spatial data and analytical tools for state and other governmental entities and a long working relationship with many state departments, boards and agencies that collect natural resource data. UCD ICE is currently performing services that are similar to RLFF contract deliverables, which will help ensure completion by the June 30, 2005.

UCD ICE is contracting to provide services to Great Places Program and will produce data and analytical tools for better land use planning and natural resource decisions. Under its interagency agreement, UCD ICE will make improvements to statewide data and analytical systems and also focus on a demonstration pilot in the San Joaquin Region. Many of the products related to this San Joaquin Valley pilot will support the deliverables of the Resource Legacy Fund Foundation contract, such as collection and updating of data on the Great Places Digital Atlas.

UCD ICE is in the process of building a Universal Model Builder (UMB), similar to the Conservation Site Discovery Tool required by the RLFF contract. ICE has completed 50% of the UMB user interface and would be able to complete the tool and deploy it on the Resources Agency's CERES server for public use by June 30, 2005, as required in the RLFF contract. It will work with state, regional, local and private institutions in the San Joaquin Valley to determine data needs that supports local and regional project scales and incorporate the data into the UMB.

UCD ICE will identify GIS data gaps and collection and update GIS data for the Great Places program. Updates to be provided will include endangered species locations, habitat linkages, and other natural resource data. In addition, state GIS coverage of lands owned by public agencies will be done, based upon the amount of funding available. Data updates will be statewide, but focus on the San Joaquin

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Valley Region. These efforts will support some of the data updates required in the RLFF contract

The sole source contract with UCD will not exceed \$124,000.